

with it Tully in Latin, Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Isocrates, and Demosthenes in Greek, must needs prove an excellent man.".. "In histories, and namely in Livy, the like diligence of imitation could bring excellent learning, and breed staid judgement in taking any like matter in hand."¹ In the Letters to his Son, Chesterfield constantly admonishes his son to read and to read only the best, "Nothing forms so true a taste, as the reading the ancient authors with attention;"² "I have often told you already that nothing will help your invention more, and teach you to think more justly, than reading, with care and attention, the Ancient Greek and Latin authors, especially the poets;"³ "Read only useful books and never quit a subject till you are thoroughly master of it, but read and inquire on till then;"⁴ "I am glad that you begin to taste Horace; the more you read him the better you will like him. His Art of Poetry is, in my mind, his master-piece; and the rules he there lays down are applicable to almost every part of life. To avoid extremes, to observe propriety, to consult one's own strength, and to be consistent from beginning to end, are precepts as useful for the man as for the poet;"⁵ "Stick to the best established books in every language, the celebrated poets, historians, orators, or philosophers. By these means, you will make fifty percent of that time, of which others do not make above three or four or probably nothing at all."⁶

1. The Scholemaster, pp 150 f.

2. Chesterfield's Letters To His Son, p 51, Letter LVII.

3. op. cit., p 56, Letter LXII.

4. op. cit., p 172, Letter CLVII.

5. op. cit., p 102, Letter CVI.

6. op. cit., p 305, Letter CCXVI.